



Commission on Rehabilitation Services Meeting

Friday, August 14, 2020

10 a.m. (Eastern)

Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome

The meeting was called to order by David Spradley –VR Commission Chair at 10:00 a.m.

V	Greg Bedan	V	Joel Boehner	V	Sarah Chestnut
V	Christine Dahlberg	V	Donna Elbrecht	A	Shawn Fulton
V	Melissa Keyes	V	Theresa Koleszar	A	PJ McGrew
A	Danei’l Mize	V	Amber O’Haver	V	Michelle Oja
V	Richard Propes	V	Marc Ruiz	V	David Spradley
V	Willaine St. Pierre Sandy	V,I	Susan Rinne	V,I	Cynthia Rockwell

(A=Absent, P=Present, T=Teleconference, Virtual =V, I=Invited Guest)

The meeting was delayed 30 minutes due to commission members having connectivity issues

II. Approval of the July 10, 2020 meeting minutes

Motion: Joel Boehner

Second: Christine Dahlberg

The Commission voted unanimously in favor.

III. Public Comments

a) No public comments were given

IV. Virtual Staff Awards Presentation – Michell Oja

a) Subcommittee will investigate virtual platform for the awards presentation.

V. BRS Director Update – Theresa Koleszar

a) Partnership with Division of Mental Health & Addiction on VOICE project.

- Project extended through December 2020
- Online training series in development
- Introductory IPS training for CMHC’s
- Updated guidance to VR staff – substance use.
 - May not be a barrier to achieving job goal
 - Treatment may not be needed, but if it is, VR may be able to assist with this service.
 - Mindset shift – employment as part of recovery, harm reduction, bias/stigma. Individual needs.

b) COVID – 19 Update

- Many VR services continue to be offered remotely
- In-office appointments resumed July 6, 2020
 - Plexiglas
 - Mask

- Office cleanings
 - Limiting number of people in the office
 - Considerations for staff and participants at risk
 - c) Impact of COVID – 19 employment status questionnaires
 - Better understand impact of pandemic on employment of VR participants
 - Identify individual needs, e.g. support with adapting to new employer protocols, finding new employment, etc.
 - Summary of results so far...
 - As of July 31, 2020, 665 questionnaires completed
 - 16% reported laid off, 40% furlough, 2% remote work due to COVID – 19
 - 4% reported terminated for other reasons, and 11% quit working
 - Only 1/3 reported no impact on employment due to COVID - 19
 - VI. Employment First – Christine Dahlberg
 - a) Review of updated Employment First Plan – Next Steps
 - Commission members reviewed language and made suggested changes to the Data and Barrier Analysis portion of the Employment First document.
 - Updates will be presented at the September 11, 2020 Commission meeting.
 - VII. Announcements
 - a) No announcements
 - VIII. Next meeting September 11, 2020
 - IX. Meeting Adjourns 1:00 p.m.
- Motion:** Michelle Oja
Second: Christine Dahlberg
The Commission voted unanimously in favor.

Future meeting dates:

Date	Time	Location	Address
September 11, 2020	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	TBD	
November 13, 2020	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	TBD	